

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/617,883

Examiner

D. I. Lee

Applicant(s)

SHIBATA ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/5/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-6 and 11-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

D. I. Lee
Primary Examiner
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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are presented for examination.
2. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 05 June 2005. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended; claims 3 and 10 have been canceled; and claims 12-16 have been newly added by the Amendment. Currently, claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-16 are pending in the application.
3. Applicant's arguments filed 05 June 2005 have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-16 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Osawa [JP 09-270,050] teaches a medium handling machine (a cash transaction device), comprising: a media insertion/delivering port for receiving and delivering the medium, a shutter (a payment opening shutter) for opening or closing the media insertion/delivering port by being open or close the media insertion/delivering port, a sensor (payment opening sensor) for sensing an object other than the medium, such as a customer's hand in the shelter of payment opening, a timer for counting a timer during which the shutter is opened, and a control unit for closing the shutter when a count of the timer reached a predetermined value (i.e., moving the shutter to a closed position, which obviously include the intermediate position of shutter while the shutter is moving from fully open position to fully closed position when the timer has reached a predetermined amount of time.

Kondo [JP10-069557] discloses a paper money dispensing device having a shutter for opening or closing the media insertion/delivering port (a paper money dispensing part) by being slide over an opening of the media insertion/delivering port, a plurality of detecting sensors (a

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bill detecting means for detecting the paper money inside, a manual detection means for detecting the hand of the operator, a residual detection means for detecting the residual paper money) mounted inside the media insertion/delivering port and wherein the shutter slides to a closed position from an open position,

Fukatsu [JP 58-192171] discloses an automatic transaction device comprising a media insertion/delivering port (a front side of the operation section) for receiving and delivering medium (for example, delivering the bill inside the dispensing mechanism and receiving the bags that used for holding the bills deposited in the bag issuing unit), a curved-surface shutter for opening or closing the media insertion/delivering port by being slid over the media insertion/delivering port (i.e., the shutter shown to be slid over between the open and closed position. The automatic transaction device comprises a sensor mounted outside of the port (i.e., mounted on front side of the operation section just below the shutter) and detects an object (i.e., a foreign material such as hand and paper) at the closing of the shutter. When the sensor detects an object (i.e., a foreign material such as hand and paper) at the closing of the shutter, the controller stops the shutter or reverses the operation of the shutter.

Kaneko [JP 10-188079] discloses an input/output device for paper sheets having a paper money slot for inserting the paper money into, a sensor for recognizing the paper has been inserted into the slot and confirming the hand of client inside of money inlet/outlet port, a shutter having slid over movement. When it is confirmed there is no hand of client inside the money inlet/outlet, the shutter is rotated in closing direction. Kaneko also teaches that in this case, the motor for shutter drive is rotated quickly until the shutter is closed but when the shutter is moved to the prescribed position, it is temporarily stopped and after the lapse of prescribed time, the motor for shutter drive is rotated and the shutter is moved to the closing position and closed.

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Sommerville [US 6,478,221] discloses a self-service terminal comprising a plurality of user interfacing elements (e.g., a display, entry keys, a card reading slot, a receipt dispensing slot, and a cash dispense slot) that includes the media insertion/delivering port (e.g., a card reading slot, a receipt dispensing slot, a cash dispense slot, a media deposit slot and etc.) Furthermore, Sommerville teaches that to draw the user's attention to the particular user's interface device at appropriate point in the transaction, a lamp (LED) is mounted on the self-terminal adjacent the user interface and the control unit (the processor) causing the lamp to be turned on or flashed.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the teachings of Osawa, Kondo, Fukatsu, Kaneko, and Sommerville, alone or in combination with other references, in order to provide the specifics arrangement of the media insertion/delivering port including a sensor mounted inside the media insertion/delivering port in a positioned higher than a height of the medium for sensing an object other than the medium and a control configured for detecting a condition in which the sensor senses the object other than the medium in the port and when the period reaches a predetermined value, wherein the control responsive to the sensor and the timer causing the shutter to be slide to a position intermediate between a fully open position and a fully closed position when the sensor senses the object other than the medium, causing the lamp to be turned on or flashed when the sensor senses the object other than the medium, and causing the shutter to retract from the intermediate position without reaching the fully closed position when the sensor senses the object other than the medium, as set forth in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

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issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. I. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-2399. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



D. I. Lee
Primary Examiner
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